

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 1875, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Monday (Dec. 1875?) My dear Alec:

Thank you very much for your note received this afternoon. I am so glad you had a comfortable journey and such a warm reception. It must be so pleasant to be home again after so long an absence, but remember you have another home here to which you must come back as soon as you can. It seems an age since you went, and the days that still divide us very many and long. I am glad your mother was pleased with her shawl. Berta was delighted to hear how much affected your father and mother were by Mamma's letter, "she was sure they must be lovely, she doted upon them and congratulated me in having such nice parents-in-law." I did not show your letter only told Mamma that part.

I went this afternoon to see Cousin Mary, my Cousin John Singleton, Copley Greene's young widow, to apologize for not bringing you to see her last Tuesday. She is lovely, and I am sure you will like and love her as much as we all do. She is prejudice in your favor.

So you have been planning about our future. I think it high time we did so as we must begin to decide how we will live. I should think your idea of taking an apartment now would not be very good one think your idea of taking an apartment now would not be a very good one unless we were going to be married soon. The rent would be very expensive, and you do not know how long it will be before I can come to you. The apartments the plans of which I saw were \$1200 downward. They were in the Alexandra Hotel.

Don't get me that little dog please unless you are perfectly sure you can afford it, you do not want to draw upon your reserves if possible.

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Have you done anything on your letter or plan. I should think it important you got them done as soon as possible and you must give me time to copy them, if you decide to trust me with that business. I want to help you all I can, but do not feel obliged to give me the work unless you are sure I am competent to do it.

Cousin Mary is puzzling over the following “Take five and five and forty-five, and to it the first of letters add. You will have a thing that killed a King and drove a wise man mad.” Can you solve this. She read your famous autobiography and thought it very clever, how could she help thinking so. Now Mr. Horsford has it and then if I can get it back will send it on to Grandpa and Uncle Rie. I am getting hopeless of even keeping my property to myself again, I wanted to copy it and retain the original, but no, nothing will do, the letter they must have, and so with a sign of despair I see it go. I am very anxious to know what you think of all this commotion. Would you object to seeing it in print. It is high time I asked you because Grandpa will want to send it to some newspaper, I fear.

We had quite a violent thunder-storm last night, and this morning it was as warm as May and very disagreeable and oppressive. We all feel the effects, everyone is as sleepy as they can be, Papa is exhausted after a long day at Bridgewater.

Berta feels very jealous because you wished her only one happy New Year, while Grace has many . She says give Alec my love and one happy New Year, and Grace wishes you many . Mama sends love and Goodnight and wants me to go to bed. Thank you for the cards they were very pretty especially mine. Sister got two for us — orange flowers on a blue ground, but Mamma can't find them yet.

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With love to your father and mother, Uncle, Aunt and Cousins, and ever so much for yourself — (No P.S. this time?)

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Your loving, Mabel.